NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS

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PART I : E. PLOY INT, BUILDING AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES.

EMPLOYMENT. General demobilisation began in October 1945 but most of the men discharged had substantial periods of accumulated leave. This coupled with temporary dis-employment of civilians due to industrial disputes and displacement of men from Governmental munitions factories delayed commencement of the process of re-employment.

In January 1946 however the situation began to clear and in that month the number of men in civil employment (other than rural industry) rose by 30,000 to 549,000. This was followed by a further increase of 20,000 in February making the total at the end of that month 569,000 or 35,000 above the level existing when hostilities had ceased six months previously.

In those six months approximately 116,000 men were discharged in New South Wales. This represented slightly more than one half of the forces enlisted from New South Wales. Of these approximately 65,000 indicated that they proposed to enter employment as wage earners in non-rural industry, 10,000 proposed to return to or enter rural industry, 9,000 proposed to resume or take up business on their own account and '2,500 to enter full time training for an avocation. The remaining 29,000 were undecided as to their future work at time of demobilisation.

Allowing for the number of men required to replace men and women who had temporarily entered into or prolonged their employment during the war period and for the considerable numbers resuming or starting businesses on their own account, it is still evident that the expansion of employment, begun in January and February, has still very far to go before available men are completely restored to employment.

The position in regard to female employment is very different. In July 1939 approximately 168,000 women and girls were working in New South Wales as wage earners (excluding those in rural industry and domestics in private households). By the end of the war this number had reached about 253,000 in addition to 16,000 enlisted in the forces from N.S.W. At the end of February 1946 the corresponding numbers were 245,000 women and girls working and about 9,000 enlisted in the forces from New South Wales--a total approximately 86,000 greater than at the outbreak of war.

Below are shown comparative figures of numbers of wage and salary earners in employment other than for rural industry (which can be recorded only annually as at March 31st) and for household domestics (which can only be recorded at Censuses or quasi-censuses):-

Was		Earners in Emp Thousands)		I.S.W. (a
	1939 July	1945 July	<u>1946-</u> Jan.	
Males	530	534	549	
Females	168	252		
Total	698	786	792	814

(a) Excluding rural and household domestic workers

The next following table shows the number of employees in each of the principal groups of industry for which monthly data are available. Shortages of many lines of essential goods have become more marked since the termination of the war and this is largely explained by the fact that, in the initial months of rehabilitation, employment in factories and mines rose by less than 2,000 whereas employment in retailing, commerce, transport, professions and personal services listed below has risen by 26,800.

Wage and Salary Earners in Employment, Industrial Groups. (Thousands)

Industrial Groups	1945 em	July	1946 - Jan.	Feb.	July 1945 to Feb. 1946
Mining and quarrying Factories	24.8 303.9	24.8 301.0	23.9 290.7	25.1 302.6	
Transport and com- munication Retail trade	100.3 67.8	102.6	104.3 75.7	107.3	4.7)
Other commerce and finance	56.4	56.5	62.8	64.1	7.6 26.8
Professional and person services (a)	114.9	117.5	121.8	124.1	

(a) Excluding private domestics.

With the cessation of Government direction of labour it is evident that productive industry ceased to be able to attract the labour needed to supply civilian needs. The supply of labour for civil production in factories has been augmented by a substantial transfer from production of munitions and war supplies to production for civil use. Part of this trend is reflected below;-

Factory Employment, Munitions and Other.

	1939 July 000	1945 - Feb.	July 000	1946 - Jan. Feb. 000 000	Change since July 1945 000
Governmental Munitions Factories (a) Other factories	4.2 213.8			18.8 18.9 271.9 283.7	- 13.3 + 14.9
Total	218.0			290.7 302.6	+ 1.6

(a) Munitions, aircraft and shipbuilding (incl. some annexes and private factories)

It is evident however from the figures which follow that additional labour available as a result of demobilisation and curtailment of munitions production has done relatively little to increase the labour supply in factories producing some of the most urgently needed goods—textiles, clothing, metal trades, furniture etc.:-

Employment in Non-munition Factories (a)

	1945	Change	Change
Factory Class	July 000		%
Bricks, cement, glass etc. Paper, printing etc. Other factories Clothing Food, drink and tobacco Furniture, woodworking etc. Metal works, engineering, vehicles Textiles			+20 +11 +11 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 1

(a) Excludes Governmental munitions etc. factories referred to above The figures refer only to firms large enough to submit Pay-roll Tax returns, and therefore do not correspond in total to the "Other factories" in the previous table.

The movement of female labour from various industrial and factory classes is shown in the following table. Only clothing factories, retail trade and the professional and personal services group show increases. The decline in textile factories is considerable.

Change in Female Employment July 1945 to February 1946.

Industrial or Factory Class		
Governmental munitions, etc., factories Other metal works, engineering, vehicle factories Textile factories Bricks, cement, glass etc. factories Transport and communication Paper factories, printing etc. Commerce and finance, other than retail Furniture, fittings, woodworking factories Other factories Food, drink and tobacco factories Professional and personal services Retail trade Clothing factories	- 4.3 - 2.3 - 1.0 - 0.1 - 0.1 - 0.1 + 0.1 + 1.5 + 1.5	

IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION. In February, production of iron and steel revived, after four very depressed months, due to industrial disputes and shortage of coal. The index for steel in February exceeded the level at the end of the war:

Iron and Steel: Indices of Production, N.S.W.

1	944-45	1945 -	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1946 - Jan.		Max
Pig iron								1,009	103
Ingot steel	1,126	1,167	1,115	627	135	-		1,208	116:

Employment in iron and steel production regained the end-of-war level in March:

Employment in Iron and Steel Works, N.S.W.

	1945 -			1946 -					
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		Feb.	Mar.	
In thousands	11.0	10.9	8.2	3.6	3.5				

COAL PRODUCTION. As the industry operated without major stoppages, output of coal in New South Wales in the first quarter of 1946 was nearly as great as in March Quarter 1945, but fell short of the levels of mid-1945. Pro ction was not much below the average pre-war rate, but was considerably short of the greatly increased demand, and of the increased capacity of the industry.

	Producti	ion of Coal	. N.S.W.		
	Weekly ave	erages (000			
Three years	1945 - 1st Qr.	2nd Qr.			
200	198	206			

Employment in the coal-mining industry at the end of February was slight ly below the end-of-war figure, and about 12 per cent above the pre-war level.

Employment in Coal-mining, N.S.W: (000)

Av., three years 1937 to 1939	1945 July	Dec.	
15.5	17.7	15.3	

GAS AND ELECTRICITY. Consumption of gas and electricity in Sydney in

March exceeded the mid-winter peak of last year. Figures
for recent months are as follows. The effects of rationing in December and
January are apparent.

	EX OF CON	SUMPTI	ON OF	GAS A	ND ELEC				
	Average								
Average	1939	1944	1945.	icar kutir			1946-		
1929-31			Mar.	ero entrementalis	Aug	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
	131	169	171	184	177	123			

The high rate of consumption in March, together with coal production difficulties, has contributed to the renewed anxiety this month, as to the position of stocks.

BUILDING PROJECTED. The total value of building projects for which local council permits were issued, or Government contracts let and day-labour jobs begun, in the reporting area of the State in March quarter was £7.3 million. The reporting area for private permits excludes much of the country; only 129 country towns and seven shires adjacent to the metropolis are included, besides the metropolitan area.

In making pre-war comparisons it must be remembered that before the war approximately 88 per cent of all private permits resulted in completed dwellings. At present the percentage is much less. Subject to this qualification, the figure of £7.3 million compares with a quarterly average of approximately £5 million in 1939. The comparable figure in the last half year of the war was £2.2million.

The increase since the war ended has been mainly in dwellings, but there was also a sharp rise in private building projects other than dwellings in March quarter.

HOUSES PROJECTED AND COMPLETED. The number of new houses comprised in the above figure of £7.3 million for March quarter was 5012. Subject to the same qualification as to the increased gap between council permits and completions, this is comparable with a quarterly figure of about 3,000 in 1938-39 and 818 in the last year of the war. However, the March quarter figure was only slightly higher than that for December quarter, which was 4,902. This retardation was mainly due to fewer Government building projects in the metropolitan area and private permits in the country.

The number of private permits in the metropolitan area has increased progressively from a low January figure. However, although 789 permits for private new houses were issued in the Metropolitan area in March, the number of new houses actually commenced was only 588, and completed 219. Comparisons are:-

	METROPOLITA		
	1945		
New Private Homes	July-Dec.		
	Mthly Av.		
Permits issued	509	494	
Commenced	478	499	
Completed	(a)	119	
	available.		

BUILDING MATERIALS. Improvement since August in supplies of bricks and tiles was shown in February and March, after sotbacks due to power shortages in December and January. Output of local sawn timber has not increased greatly above the level at the end of the war, but is about 30 per cent above the pre-war level. The quantity of imported timber cut is not known, but imports of building materials into Australia from overseas have not increased significantly since the war, and the prospect in that direction is poor. Recent movements in building supplies were:

Output of Certain Building Materials, N.S.W.

	1939 Monthly Av.	1945 -	Dec.	1946 - Jan	
Bricks (mill) Roofing Tiles (m Timber (local sa	the state of the s	8.3	5.4	9.6	
(m. sup. ft.)		18.4	15.8	16.5 Englage	
	(a) No	t availabl			

Employment has increased by 77 per cent in brick manufacture; since the war ended, and in roofing tile manufacture it has more than doubled. However, employment in the brick and tile industry is only about half the pre-

GOVERNMENT TRAMS AND BUSES. Working expenses and gross earnings fell seasonally by almost equal amounts in February, leaving net earnings approximately the same as in January. The number of passenger journeys was 3 per cent higher than in February 1945. Gross earnings for the financial year to date are now almost up to last year's level, but the rise in working expenses, amounting to 7 per cent, has cut net earnings for the nine months from £406,000 to £146,000.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TRAM AND 'BUSES - SYDNEY AND NEWCASTLE.

	Month of February			Eight months ended February				
Year	Passenger Journeys	Gross Earnings	working Expenses	Passenger Journeys	Gross Earnings		Net Earnings	
gyana ggaranatoka kinuar kerapi ta duli rasifingti	Millions	£000	(a) £000	Millions			000æ(d)	
1939-40	31.5	362	305	250.7	2,972		487	
1944-45 1945-46	42.9 44.3	458 470	401 448	364.2 362.9			406 146	

- (a) Excluding depreciation.
- (b) Gross earnings less working expenses: available to meet interest, depreciation, etc. on loan debt.

PART II FINANCE AND TRADE.

N.S.W. STATE ACCOUNTS. The deficiency for the nine months ended March 1946 was only £1.17 m., compared with £2.11 m. for the eight months period. The improvement was mainly due to the railways, stamp and probate duty, and lower interest payments.

In the following comparisons the figures for the last financial year have been adjusted by the exclusion of abnormal Treasury bill transactions. The comparison shows that the deterioration over the last year is mainly due to increased governmental expenditure and reduced revenue other than taxation. The business undertakings as a whole are maintaining the previous years position.

				SOUTH WA	ALES GO		T ACCOL				
ine onths uly to arch	REVENUE £million					EXPENDITURE £million					
		Tax-		ness	Total			Busi- ness U'tkgs x			
944-45	10+33 10+34	4.03	5.93	29.98 29.53	50.27	11.38 11.32	15.69 16.59	23.12 23.11			
lovement	+ .01	+ .61	59	45	42	06	+ .90	01			

Ø Includes re-imbursement of taxes and payments towards interest.

x Includes Railways, Trams and Buses, Road Transport and Traffic Fund and Sydney Harbour. Expenditure is exclusive of debt charges.

9 Excludes £3.25 from business undertakings for redemption of Treasury Bills

1 Excludes £3.84 expended in redemption of Treasury bills.

WHOLE SALE TRADE. The value of sales in February by traders registered under the Sales Tax Act was higher than in January but little more than the average for 1945 or 1944. The sales refer to all goods sold by these traders, whether taxable or exempt, and therefore include any war supplies sold by thom. Apparently the decline in war sales has approximately offset increase in civilian sales up to the present. The volume of turnover, after price-increases have been allowed for, is still substantially below pre-war levels.

N.S.W. Whol	esale Trade - Sales	of Taxa	ble and		
Compartment factors (prices) source contributes depter description and a second source of		l	Million a		
	1939	1944	1945	1946	
Monthly Average	16.0	21.0		-	
	13.2 16.5		18.6 21.5		

RETAIL TRADE, SYDNEY. The value of sales in the large city stores rose further in February and there was a further fall in the value of stocks. Compared with February 1945 sales were 37 per cent higher, and stocks 10 per cent lower. Recent movements were:-

Percentage increase + or decrease - on same month previous year.

1945
Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb.

Value of Stocks + 12 + 10 + 5 + 4 - 5 - 6 - 10

Stocks have failed to keep pace with sales since mid-1945, and in recent months have been getting steadily worse.

The volume of turnover, though high in comparison with the later war years, is still well below pre-war levels, when price-changes are allowed for, and the fact that this rate of consumption is causing such depletion of stocks is evidence of the failure of supplying factories to expand their civilian output.

The decline in stocks has been mainly in clothing and piece-goods, and furniture In the absence of statistics of output, the following figures of employment in these groups of factories in New South Wales are given:-

	1945	1946		
Employment A	Aug.	Jan.	Feb.	
Clothing (000)	33.1	34.2		
Textilos (000)	15.0	14.4	14.9	
Furniture(000)	4.6	4.5	4.9	

x Of employers submitting Pay-roll Tax returns.

Employment in textiles has decreased since the war ended, and the increase is slight in the clothing and furniture trades. In the clothing trade, shortages of material are reported to be a greater handicap at the moment than shortage of labour.

Changes over the year ended February in sales and stocks of the main classes of goods sold are shown below:-

	Salcs	Stock		
	%	%		
Dress piece-goods	+ 14	- 17	Household piece-goods	
Women's wear	+ 30	- 12	Furniture	
Men's & Boy's wear	+ 46	- 14	General hardware	
Boots and shoes	+ 52	- 18	Electrical goods	

Employment in the reporting stores was 19 per cent higher than in February, 1945.

RETAIL PRICES AND WAGES. There was a slight increase in the "C" series index number of retail prices (covering all items of household expenditure) in March quarter. In Sydney, this was due to increases in clothing prices and in the price of eggs, following the seasonal rises permitted by the Prices Commissioner on 14th December and 4th February. The total increase in the index since September 1939 was 23.4 per cont. The price-stabilisation policy introduced in June 1943 is still proving effective, so far as the items included in the price-index are concerned. Movements in the components since the outbreak of war and the introduction of price-stabilisation are shown below.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE-INDEX, SYDNEY From September Quarter 1939 to -

Increases in -	June 9r.1943	Dec. 0r. 1945	
Food and groceries Rent Clothing	+ 14.5 + 0.3 + 75.9 + 23.7		+11.8 410.
Miscellaneous All items	+ 24.9	+ 22.9	+24.9

There will be no alteration in the basic wage in New South Wales in the quarter beginning in May, except in awards based on the index-number for the six capitals, which will be increased by 1s. The only other change in Australia will be in awards based on the index-number for Brisbane, which will also be increased by 1s.

The basic wage in Sydney has been fairly stable around 99s. for the last three years. From 1943 to the end of 1945 the total weekly wageearnings in the State have also changed very little.

	June 0r.1943	
Basic wage, Sydney		
Average weekly wage-earnings, N.S.W	1. (£000) 4679	
Non-rural employment, N.S.W. (000)		

PART III : RURAL INDUSTRIES.

SEASON. The rain which fell in April was heaviest on the central coast and tablelands. The remainder of the coastal and tableland regions received normal rains in April, but the inland areas had little rainfall.

However, the condition of most of the inland areas, except the north-west, has been satisfactory in recent months. On the whole pastoral prospects are good, in the main districts wheat sowing is being carried out in favourable conditions, and pastures in dairying districts are good, though loss of fodder crops through flood damage may affect dairy production on the North Coast. Livestock are in good condition, and many have been retained for further fattening while fresh feed is plentiful. Fodder stocks in general are very satisfactory.

WOOL. Revival of exporting to pre-war customers is reflected in the exports of wool for the nine months ended March. Shipments to U.S.A., however, were heaviest. Comparisons with the pre-war period are:-

EXPORTS OF W	OOL FROM AUSTRALIA	(greas	sy only)
Ni	ne months ended Ma	arch -	
Country of			
Destination A	v. 1938 and 1939	1945	1946
Control Contro	Millions of bal	les -	Bro-Broom-tow
United Kingdom	844	616	624
France	380	este	168
Belgium	246	400	115
Japan	157	929	m3
Italy	125	65.9	449
U.S.A.	38	515	719
Other Countries	234	38	57
TOTAL EXPORTS	2024	1160	1683
TOTAL EVLOUID	LUG+	1107	1000

The dispute over the handling of double-dumped bales of wool led to waterfront stoppages on May 6 which next day spread to all Eastern states. At present there are reported to be about 4½ million bales double-dumped still in store in Australia.

Revival of civilian production in United Kingdom woollen mills is reflected in recent figures of exports of tops, yarns and tissues:-

UNITED KINGDOM	JANUA		
EXPORTS OF -	1938		
	In M	illions	
Tops (lb)	5.4		
Worsted yarn (lb)	3.8	.9	
Woollen yarn (lb)	. 8		
Woollen tissues(sq.yd.)	9.8	4.2	
Worsted tissues(sq.yd.)	5.3		

Home market supplies, however, have not been expanded greatly since the war :-

4000	Monthl	y Average	
United Kingdom, supply for home civilian market:-	1944	1945	
	In	millio	
Woven woollen cloth (Sq.yd.)		13.8	
Wool hand-knitting yarn (Sq.yd. (16)	.8	.9	

No further appraisements of wool have been made since Easter. The total for the season to date is 817,000 bales, compared with 873,000 for the period last season, and 1,073,000 for the same period of 1939.

The provisional programme of wool auction sales for the 1946-47 season provides for the offering of 696,000 bales in New South Wales and Queensland up to the Christmas vacation, with sales opening in September.

WHEAT. In an emergency message the Chairman of the Famine Emergency Committee (Mr. Hoover) suggested that Australia should expand her whoat exports to 37 million bushels by the end of August, to help meet the immediate urgency in famine-stricken countries. Exports of wheat from Australia has been particularly low in the current trade year, totalling only 1.2 million bushels in the eight months ended February, compared with 32 million bushels in the period last year, and 39 million bushels in 1939. In the two menths since February availability of new season's wheat led to considerable expansion in exports but much more will be needed if an attempt is to be made to supply the requested famine quota.

A drought relief grant of £445,000 for the 1945-46 season was announced on May 1. This will be shared between growers in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. It is much less than the previous year's grant of £1,570,000

<u>DAIRYING</u> Butter production in March maintained last season's level, but was still considerably below the rate reached in the early years of the war:-

	PRODUCTIO	IN OF FACTORY	BUTTER, N	· S·W·		
		(Thou	isands of t	ons)		
		1945 -		1946 -		
		3rd Or.	4th Qr.	Jan.		
Monthly figures						
3 years to	1 41 - 42	2.6	4.3	5.0	4.7	4.7
it	1944-45	1.6	3.6	3.6		3.7
11	1945-46	1.8	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.8